The **Glorious Revolution**, or **Revolution of 1688**,

..was the overthrow of [King](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_monarchy) [James II of England](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_II_of_England) (VII of Scotland and II of Ireland) in [1688](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1688) by a union of [Parliamentarians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_England) with an invading army led by the [Dutch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_Republic) [stadtholder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stadtholder) William III of [Orange-Nassau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Orange-Nassau) (William of Orange) who as a result ascended the English throne as [William III of England](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_III_of_England). The expression "Glorious Revolution" was first used by [John Hampden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Hampden_(1653-1696)) in late 1689,[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glorious_Revolution#cite_note-0) and is an expression that is still used by the [Westminster Parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westminster_Parliament).

During his three-year reign, King James II became directly involved in the political battles in England between Catholicism and Protestantism on the one hand, and on the other, between the Divine Right of Kings and the political rights of Parliament. James's greatest political problem was his Catholicism, which left him alienated from both parties in Parliament. The low church Whigs had failed in their attempt to pass the Exclusion Bill to exclude James from the throne between 1679 and 1681, and James's supporters were the High Church Anglican Tories.

When James inherited the throne in 1685, he had much support in the 'Loyal Parliament', which was composed mostly of Tories. His Catholicism was a concern to many, but that he had no son, and his daughters were Protestants, was a "saving grace". James's attempt to relax the penal laws alienated his natural supporters, however, because the Tories viewed this as tantamount to disestablishment of the Church of England. Abandoning the Tories, James looked to form a 'King's party' as a counterweight to the Anglican Tories, so in 1687 James supported the policy of religious toleration and issued the Declaration of Indulgence. By allying himself with the Catholics, Dissenters, and nonconformists, James hoped to build a coalition that would advance Catholic emancipation.

**The English Bill of Rights**

**Provisions of the act:**

The Bill of Rights and it sent out certain basic [tenets](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Tenet) for, at the time, all [Englishmen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England). These rights continue to apply today, not only in England, but in each of the jurisdictions of the [Commonwealth realms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_realm) as well. The people, embodied in the [parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament), are granted immutable civil and political rights through the act, including:

* Freedom from royal interference with the law. Though the sovereign remains the fount of justice, he or she cannot unilaterally establish new courts or act as a judge.
* Freedom from [taxation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxation) by [Royal Prerogative](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Prerogative). The agreement of parliament became necessary for the implementation of any new taxes.
* Freedom to [petition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petition) the monarch.
* Freedom from the [standing army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standing_army) during a time of peace. The agreement of parliament became necessary before the army could be moved against the populace when not at war.
* Freedom for [Protestants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestantism) to bear arms for their own defense, as suitable to their class and as allowed by law.
* Freedom to elect members of parliament without interference from the sovereign.
* Freedom of speech and debates; or proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament.